**Bougouni Progress Report**

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# Introduction:

This report is brief description of the activities implemented in the District of Bougouni from May to August 17.

## Activities Implemented at Bougouni intervention villages

* PICSA Training of Trainers (PICSA ToT)
* Survey and field missions
* Activities in the technology parks
* Hosting various mission programs
* Farmers Training of Trainers
* Organization of IP Meetings

## PICSA ToT

A PICSA ToT training gathering 30 participants (AR technicians, state extension workers and technicians from partner institutes) was organized by Africa RISING and facilitated by CCAFS, ICRAF and Mali-Meteo in Bougouni district. During the one-week training from 4 to 10 May 2017 participants were capacitated with the participative integration of climate services in agricultural planning.



Plate 1: PICSA ToT Training

**PICSA implementation:** After the ToT, 50 farmers were selected in each of the four target villages of Bougouni district. These farmers were trained by ToT on the tools used in the participative integration of climate services in Agriculture. Farmer’s beneficiaries were trained on how to use historical rainfall record, probability calculation of rainy season onset in their seasonal planning. 200 farmers of 4 villages in Bougouni (50 farmers per village) participated to the PICSA training. These farmers were also briefed on the seasonal forecast provided by Mali-Meteo and revised their plans according to the provisions.

A key recommendation made by participants was the translation of the tools in local languages and the early provision of accurate climate and meteorological forecasts before the onset of the rainy seasons.

1. **Survey and field missions:** A socio-economic survey was conducted by AR technicians in the target villages under the direction of Dr Felix Badolo (ICRISAT). The objective was to assess the uptake of technologies by farmers’ beneficiaries of the project. 100 farmers from Flola, Dieba, Madina and Sibirila participated in the event. The activities implemented in the 4 villages took 10 working days.
2. **Activities in the technology parks: Activities implemented in Flola Technology Park involve:**

* Preparation of the park for installation of trials (ploughing, weeding, maintenance of the runoff measuring device, protection of moisture probes installed in the Park)
* Provision of cow manure to increase land fertility in the Park
* Selection of farmers for sorghum hybrid trials and contour bunding training

**Activities implemented in Medina Technology Park involve:**

* Preparation of the park for the installation of the trials (ploughing, weeding, maintenance of the runoff measure device, protection of moisture probes installed in the Park)
* Provision of cow manure to increase land fertility in the Park
* Selection and training of farmers for sorghum hybrid
* Measurement, ploughing and construction of the contour bund

1. **Hosting various mission programs**

The project team based in Bougouni received 3 partner mission programs: IER, AR Capacity Need Assessment (ARCNA) team and the director of Rural Radios.

**IER Mission:** Two team of IER working on AR program were received in Bougouni by the site coordinator. The first mission was led by Dr Nantoume and focused on the assessment of livestock feed preferences in intervention villages of AR (Flola, Madina, Sibirila and Dieba). During this mission 80 farmers 20 in each villages were interviewed on livestock feed preferences and feed availability. The survey was conducted by interviewers trained by Dr Nantoume and lasted four days. The site coordinator provided a logistic support for the team and introduced interviewers to FENABE focal points in the intervention villages.

The second mission was led by Mr Oumar Samake and his team who spend 2 days to repair the runoff measurement devices in Madina and Flola Technology Parks.

**ARCNA Mission:** A mission led by Edwidge Kangethe and Serge were received by the site coordinator in Bougouni. The mission was devoted to assessment of partner’s capacity needs. The mission was received by the FENABE. After their introduction the visitors briefed FENABE and the AR team on the objectives of their mission and helped them fill the interview guides they brought.



Plate 2: Brief meeting with ARCNA with Bougoui AR staff and FENABE

**Mission of Rural Radios: AR** team in Bougouni received the visit of the director of Rural Radios Mr Mamadou Bengaly for a brief meeting. The discussion was based on partnership and identification of the rural radios most preferred by farmers’ in Flola, Madina, Sibirila and Dieba villages. Farmers’ leaders questioned on the issue explained that Kafo Kan is the radio they listen to regularly.

## Farmers’ Trainings of trainers

Four training were organized in each of the technology park of Madina and Flola. The training were organized jointly with FENABE and AR team. They were facilitated by AR/ICRISAT technicians based in Bougouni in collaboration with the Sorghum Program, ARDT\_SMS team and local agricultural service.

The first training focused on improved varieties and their cultural technics was facilitated by Bougouni based AR Team. The objective was to train farmer leaders on the advantages and the selection of improved cereal crop varieties as strategies to enhance productivity.



Plate 3: In-house and field training to show water saving technologies

The second training was centered on dual purpose sorghum and hybrid varieties. Farmers were trained on land preparation and fertilizers requirements. The second day was concentrated on the installation of the trials in the technology park of Madina as practice and hands on activity before implementation of the trials in farmers’ fields.

The third training focused on cultural technics (weeding, fertilization of contour bunding technology (CBT) and non CBT plots). The last and fourth training focused on composting. A total of 480 farmers were trained on different topics during the reporting period. See Table 1 below for more information:

Table 1: Training on different technologies at the technology parks in Bougouni

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Numbers of Farmers trained from July to August 17 in Bougouni** | | | | | |
| **Theme** | **Madina Technology Park** | | **Flola Technology Park** | | **Total** |
| **Male** | **Female** | **Male** | **Female** |
| Improved varieties and cultural technics | 47 | 13 | 48 | 12 | 120 |
| Striga and Soil Fertility Management | 49 | 11 | 50 | 10 | 120 |
| Cultural technics (weeding, fertiliser application) | 48 | 12 | 45 | 15 | 120 |
| Compost | 45 | 15 | 47 | 13 | 120 |

## Organization of IP Meetings

Three IP meeting facilitated by AMEDD/FENABE were held respectively in Faradiele, Madina and Bougouni. The objectives was to assess the strength and weakness of Innovation Platforms in Bougouni and intervention villages. The second point of discussion was about the diffusion of technologies exposed in the technology parks. According to participants the main constraints were the reduction of platform participants at communal and district levels. Regarding the diffusion of validated technologies in Bougouni, participants suggest the extension of Africa RISING intervention into neighboring villages, the organization of farmers visits, and farmer field days.



Plate 4: Attendance of IP meeting in Bougouni

# Way forward

* Training on postharvest management
* Organization of farmers’ field day in Bougouni
* Preparation of trainings on feed preferences by IER